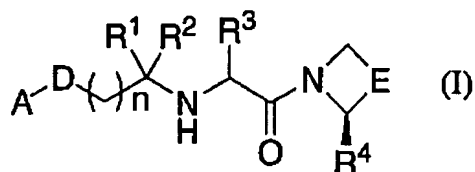


**Amendments to the Abstract:**

Please replace the Abstract with the following new Abstract:

**ABSTRACT**

A dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor which is satisfactory in respect of activity, stability and safety and has an excellent action as a pharmaceutical agent. A compound represented by the following general formula or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  each represents hydrogen, an optionally substituted C1-6 alkyl group, or  $-\text{COOR}^5$  whereupon  $R^5$  represents hydrogen or an optionally substituted C1-6 alkyl group, or  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ , and a carbon atom together represent a 3- to 6-membered cycloalkyl group,  $R^3$  represents hydrogen or an optionally substituted C6-10 aryl group,  $R^4$  represents a hydrogen or a cyano group, D represents  $-\text{CONR}^6-$ ,  $-\text{CO}-$  or  $-\text{NR}^6\text{CO}-$ ,  $R^6$  represents hydrogen or an optionally substituted C1-6 alkyl group, E represents  $-(\text{CH}_2)_m-$  whereupon m is 1 to 3,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2-$ , or  $-\text{SCH}_2-$ , n is 0 to 3, and A represents an optionally substituted bicyclic heterocyclic group or bicyclic hydrocarbon group.